

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

- A2 8. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 wherein product ion spectra of the $[M + Ag]^+$ ion are collected under E_{cns} , of 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 eV.

(Please amend claim 9 as follows:)

9. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mass spectrometer is a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, two triple quadrupole mass spectrometers, a quadrupole/time-of-flight mass spectrometer, an ion-trap mass spectrometer, or a time-of-flight mass spectrometer amenable to post-source decay or collision-induced dissociation.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

- A3 12. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10 wherein the searching and identifying is conducted by a custom search algorithm.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

- A4 14. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10 wherein product ion spectra of the $[M + Ag]^+$ ion are collected under E_{cns} , of 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 eV.

(Please amend claim 15 as follows:)

15. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10 wherein the mass spectrometer is a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, two triple quadrupole mass spectrometers, a quadrupole/time-of-flight mass spectrometer, an ion-trap mass spectrometer, or a time-of-flight mass spectrometer amenable to post-source decay or collision-induced dissociation.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15. Please refer to the Marked-Up claim pages 24, 25, and 26, attached herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.